



MUGHAL GARDENS IN KASHMIR: A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Mughal Gardens are a type of gardens built by the Mughal emperors following the Persian Empire. Which represents earthly management. The rulers of the Mughal Empire took care of gardens from the beginning of their rule. They built various types of gardens in almost the entire empire. But the gardens of Kashmir established by the Mughal emperors were particularly notable. Not only a variety of fruits, flowers or medicinal plants, these gardens also had beautiful fountains that created a mesmerizing atmosphere. Various events were held here. Early information about Mughal gardens can be found in the memoirs and biographies of Mughal emperors including Babur, Humayun and Akbar. Later descriptions of Mughal gardens are also found in the writings of various European travelers who visited India.

KEYWORDS: Mughal Gardens, Emperor, Flowers, Irrigation, Cultural Events, Economic Development, Urbanization

INTRODUCTION

Gardening tradition originated in India by the great Mughal emperors, the gardening culture was inspired by the Turko-Mongol tradition. The Qur'an, the Muslim holy book, describes the Gardens of Paradise; That description is reflected in Persian gardens. The old gardens of Iran were decorated only in the naturalistic style. After the advent of Islam, buildings were built in the garden under the guidance of the Qur'an, which were designed to resemble the Garden of Paradise. Timur Long was greatly influenced by Persian gardens.

Gardens in India during the Mughal period had many symbolic significances and were often attempted to be presented as imitations of paradise; Although this effort was little. In addition to improving the gardens, the Mughals were particularly motivated by the candidate's desire to demonstrate royal power. The Mughals followed some new features in their gardens.

As was the case with Ahmednagar, Bidar and Golconda gardens in the early 16th century. Deccan Kingdom and Chaharbagh Gardens were built. The Alo ki nobles who built the gardens under Qutb Shachis were mainly Iranian. They are thought to have been inspired directly from Iran. The Rajputs also drew inspiration from outside the Mughal Empire during this period. Their gardens also borrowed characteristics from Mughal tea gardens. For example, in the 16th century, the hanging garden of the Tara Maun House on the hill near the Amber Palace in Rajasthan was almost identical to the Italianate slope garden and other Islamic gardens such as those in Tehran. Nevertheless, the Rajputs maintained their own originality in their garden areas. For example, a ceremonial flower in Udaipur's Lac Nibas Garden was designed with stone flowers to create an artificial floating element on the water surface, which could be seen floating. Their designs form leaves and flowers that create a sinuous geometry.

Mughal gardens were characterized by a strong sense of

design with a water theme. The Mughals started construction at Charbak in India. characteristics of which Rectangle wire or square. Usually walled water intersected the channels that ran over the garden and connected to a tank around the outside of the garden. The letters were divided into different scales to create this module according to specific areas with concentric tanks. In most cases a water tank was attached where a water fountain or a water canal intersected. Mughals started building barriers to overcome the hot weather. Babur's tradition almost ceased during Humayun's reign due to the chaotic political situation. Akbar, however, followed his father's line to a certain extent. In particular, he built gardens in newly conquered territories to claim territoriality. In fact, Humayun's burial garden ushered in a new era of burial at Chaharbagh Garden during his reign, and Akbar himself eventually built a burial garden at Sikandara.

Jahangir was a great gardener. The garden-building tradition of Shah Jahan's reign reached a high point when numerous gardens were reconstructed and built, especially after his marriage to Nur Jahan and the inclusion of his family among immigrants from Persia. The gardens of the Taj Mahal and Sahalama reached the best examples of a well-planned garden. Taj Bagan and the palace gardens of Shahjahanabad which Babur built earlier. He transformed the garden design on the opposite side of the Yamuna river at Agra into a literal riverbank. Although Aurangzeb kept the memorial gardens with few exceptions, he worked to preserve the existing gardens. Agra was also a garden of other sub-traditions of the Mughal Empire, in addition to the royal gardens built in imperial cities such as Delhi and Lahore. Architecture flourished through the weakness of the Mughal Empire. The tradition continued in the regional kingdoms of Rajasthan, Punjab, Ayodhya in the south. Rajput creativity began in the 18th century. Garden The Mughal tradition of gardening continued into the nineteenth century with Indian influence until the British tradition was again Anglo Indian and not just English.

Research on Mughal garden culture in medieval India has actually been largely neglected. Historians and archaeologists have mainly emphasized the architecture of the Mughal period. But there is no doubt that the garden developed around the architecture and played an important role in the economy, trade, cultural exchange and urbanization. A number of gardens developed in Kashmir during the Mughal period with their own distinctive features that are no less important and significant.

Mughal Gardens: Kashmir

The Mughal Gardens of Srinagar are mainly gardens that were built during the reign of the Mughal emperors. Heavily influenced by the Persian Garden or Char Bag concept, these gardens drew heavily on Persian architectural styles. Mughal Gardening was a favorite pastime of the Mughal Empire.

The common features of all Mughal gardens are a rectilinear layout with walled structure honey canals, fountains, running water pools and various species of trees, flowers, fruits and aromatic grasses providing shade.

No other emperor is credited with taking garden architecture and floral design to such heights as Shah Jahan. It reached its peak when he built the elaborate funerary gold Taj Mahal in Agra to commemorate his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal.

The Mughals adopted the Mughal Gardens in Kashmir as their summer capital. So the top Mughal Gardens of Kashmir are-

Nishat Bagh
Shalimar Bagh
Chashma Shahi
Pari Mahal
Achabool
Verinagh

Nishat Bagh

Garden of pleasure, garden of pleasure, whatever it is called, Nipat Bagh in Srinagar is absolutely beautiful in every sense of the word. Looking back at the pages of history, it can be seen that the Mughal era was the most dominant in Kashmir. After deposing mighty kings, these Persian rulers set foot in Kashmir in the 16th century.

It was the sheer beauty of the valley that enabled them to conquer and rule. The glory days came with Jahangir, who was an avid art lover and who developed an insatiable love for Kashmir. He set the pace for the construction of some of the most magnificent attractions in Kashmir and this includes the Nishat Bagh.

Nishat Bagh was actually built in 1633 by Asaf Khan, brother of Mughal Emperor Jahangir's wife. True to its Persian heritage, Nishat Bagh is one of the most prominent gardens built by the Mughals in India. Facing the beautiful Dal Lake, the garden is located on its eastern bank. An interesting fact about its location is that its builders attached the lowest terrace of the garden to the lake.

Due to this Persian design concept, the Nishat Bagh is divided into 12 terraces representing the 12 zodiac signs. And the impressive thing is that many of the Chinese trees on this terrace were planted by the Mughal emperors. In short, Nishat Bagh in Kashmir is a wonderful garden of flower beds, fountains and terraces that gives a deep insight into the Mughal architectural style.

Shalimar Bagh

Shalimar Bagh is one of the finest gardens in Kashmir, built by this Muslim dynasty. This is another charming creation, envisioned by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir and built entirely by him. But before going into its description, due attention to its history have to give In the 2nd century, King Pravarasena II founded the city of Srinagar.

During his reign, he built a cottage for himself on the banks of the Dal Lake, which he named Shalimar. Later, this cottage fell into disrepair and lay in ruins. But one thing remained the same, her name was Shalimar.

This name was used in the following centuries and in the sixteenth century when Jahangir came to the place; Seeing this he built a royal garden and named it Shalimar Bagh. To please his queen, the emperor built this royal garden and today in the 21st century it is the pride of the Kashmir Valley.

The present Shalimar Bagh is connected to another garden, Faiz Box, which was added in later years during the reign of Jahangir's son Shah Jahan. The lower part of the garden, which consists of three terraces, is known as the Diwan-i-Am, and the remaining two are in the upper part.

It is believed that the upper part of the Shalimar Bagh was for the emperor and his courtiers hence it was called Dewan-e-Khas.

The Mughals took utmost care in gardening. This resulted in the placement of pavilions, pools and fountains at the edge of each terrace. Overall, the design of the garden is well planned and it beautifully portrays the Mughal architectural style. Structures that largely support such statements are the Pink Pavilion (Diwan-i-Am) and the Black Pavilion (Diwan-i-Khas).

These two structures are also important as they are some of the few Mughal architectural buildings in the whole of Kashmir. Not just a glorious marvel of brick and mortar, the two structures are in perfect harmony with the pristine natural beauty of Shalimarbagh.

Chashma Shahi

Built by Ali Mardan Khan in 1632 during the reign of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, Chashma Shahi is one of the major tourist attractions in Kashmir. This garden was established by the then Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan for his eldest and beloved son Dara Shikoh. Shah Jahan built it on the slopes of the Jabarwan Mountains around a natural spring. The garden holds this spring, even its present also in shape.

This natural spring sprouts from the first terrace of the garden, which later leads to the second and third terraces. As the water pours from the first terrace to the second level, it meets a large pool, with a fountain in the center. Some also believe that the water of this natural spring has medicinal properties.

There is an interesting story behind this belief. Legend has it that once, Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan's wife Mumtaz Mahal was given water from this natural spring when she fell ill. Miraculously, the empress recovered, leading to its widespread adoption by the later royal family.

Members of the royal family believed that regular consumption of its water worked wonders for the skin. True to Mughal heritage, Chasme Shahi displays a glimpse of Persian art and architecture. Although the smallest Mughal garden in Kashmir, it stands out among its peers in terms of architecture and design. East of Chasme Shahi lies Pari Mahal where Dara Sikoy studied astrology and was later killed by his usurper brother Aurangzeb.

Pari Mahal

The family legacy of building architectural wonders continued even after Shah Jahan. This time it was Son, who contributed to the Mughal art form. Prince Dara Shikoh, the eldest son of Emperor Shah Jahan, built Pari Mahal in Kashmir in 1650 AD. Pari Mahal Garden is located on the top of the Jabarwan mountain range in Kashmir, very close to the Dal lake.

Built according to the guidelines of Persian architecture and Char Bagh concept. The garden built around the Pari Mahal is divided into seven terraces and has no water fountains like other Mughal gardens in Kashmir. It was named Pari Mahal, meaning fairy palace, because of the structure, which

Looks like an enchanting fairy tale castle. Very notable, the garden is an excellent example of Mughal architecture and gardening.

The site where this magnificent structure stands today was originally covered by the ruins of a Buddhist monastery. Prince Dara Shikoh founded the Pari Mahal on the ruins and dedicated the structure to his teacher Mulla Shah, who tutored the prince in astronomy and astrology. It was in this garden that Prince Dara Sikhoh was later assassinated by his younger brother Aurangzeb.

Designed in a typical Mughal architectural style, the entrance to the Pari Mahal consists of a gilan, followed by a dome. Next to the dome are several rooms or chambers. Although the design of the garden strictly followed a uniform Mughal architectural style. The third terrace looks different from the rest. All the terraces are connected to each other through a series of steps. Pari Mahal is currently a camp site of Indian paramilitary units.

Achabal

Kashmir so captivated the art-loving Mughals with its beauty that Emperor Jahangir moved to this region of India with his wives and courtesans and made it the summer destination of the Mughals. The emperor's wife Nur Jahan was also a fan of

the beauty of nature and it was she who laid the foundation of Achabal Bagan in 1620.

Located around 14 km from the capital city of Srinagar, Achabal Bagh or the garden is a true delight for both nature lovers and fans of Mughal architecture. The garden is built on a hill, the height of which is 1677 meters. Achabal Bagte can be described as a fountain of colour, with gardens laid out in the style of Persian gardens. To give a royal feel, the garden was surrounded by tall Chinese trees. Even today, they stand upright with their verdant heights, maintaining the garden's rule.

Following the Persian architect's trademark Char Bagh concept, Achabal Bagh is divided into four terraces. The garden's most distinctive feature is a fountain, whose water is primarily responsible for irrigating the entire garden.

This spring connects a canal, branch canal and pavilion within the garden boundary. Although the architectural style of Charbagh was built according to Persian guidelines, it differs from its parallels at Achabal Bagh. What sets it apart from other gardens in Kashmir is its secluded location and natural surroundings.

Additionally, the garden still uses its original water source, although its counterparts lack it. Thus, in all its natural beauty and shadow of the structure, it seems that the alluring park still lives in the charm of its bygone past.

Verinagh

Verinagh is an attractive Mughal garden located at the foothills of the Banihal range south of Srinagar. It was built by Mirza Hyder, an accomplished engineer in Jahangir's Mughal court. Mirza Hyder started the construction work in 1619 on the orders of Emperor Jahangir.

The garden is built around a fountain, which is a part of the Jhelum river, and is given an octagonal shape. What appeals to Verinagh's design is the symmetry it achieves in its blend of natural surroundings and geometric shapes. Derinagh's beauty is so alluring that the garden was a personal favorite of Emperor Jahangir. Such was his attachment that he wished to be buried here after death.

The original garden created by Mirza Haider looked a little different from the present one. About seven years after its construction, Jahangir's son Shah Jahan thought of adding some features to the garden. This resulted in the construction of fountains and cascades around the springs of the Jhelum, which the garden is known for.

Apart from this, Shah Jahan also built hot and cold baths in the vicinity, which are preserved today. Not only this addition, today's Verinagh also offers a view of the dense deodar forest hills, which were not its backdrop in its early days.

CONCLUSION

Finally, the Mughal emperors synthesized gardens in India both as an embodiment of beauty and functional needs of

society and state. The Mughal emperors were keen to develop gardens as an embodiment of the paradise usually described in the Qur'an. They wanted to create an allegory of heaven. Neither real gold nor paradise. In fact, they were determined to dominate their subjects by using the royal Mughal gardens as symbols of royalty and their heritage. As a symbol of the ruler's victory as well as for rulers and officials, foreign messengers and dignitaries, they undertook to manage and cultivate their gardens.

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